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In The Claims:

Claim 19 has been cancelled without prejudice to pursue Applicants' rights in the future to pursue a continuation or divisional application.

Please amend claims 5-8, 20 and 21 as follows:

1. (Original) A method to induce stem cell differentiation in cardiomyocytes, wherein the cells are exposed for a period of time and in effective amounts to a protein of the EGF-CFC family or its derivatives, which comprises at least the EGF and CFC domains.
2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 in which the EGF and CFC domains derive from the sequence of the Cripto protein.
3. (Original) A method according to Claim 2 in which the EGF and CFC domains derive from the sequence of human Cripto protein.
4. (Original) A method according to Claim 2 in which the EGF and CFC domains derive from the sequence of mouse Cripto protein.
5. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claims 1 in which cell exposure occurs through genetic expression in stem cells via a suitable vector.
6. (Currently Amended) Stem cells induced to differentiate into cardiomyocytes obtainable according to the method of ~~one of previous~~ claims 1.

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7. (Currently Amended) A composition for the treatment of heart diseases that comprises stem cells ~~treated according to Claim 6~~ obtainable by the method of Claim 1.
8. (Currently Amended) The use of the stem cells according to Claim 6 1 for the treatment of heart diseases.
9. (Original) A composition for therapeutic use for treating heart disorders that comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a protein or its derivative, having at least the EGF and CFC domains of a protein of the EGF-CFC family.
10. (Original) A composition according to Claim 9 in which the protein has at least the EGF and CFC domains of the Cripto protein.
11. (Original) A composition according to Claim 9 in which the EGF and CFC domains derive from the human Cripto protein sequence.
12. (Original) A composition according to Claim 9 in which the EGF and CFC domains derive from the mouse Cripto protein sequence.
13. (Original) A method to induce stem cell differentiation into neuronal cells, wherein the cells are exposed for a period of time and in effective amounts to an inhibitor of the Cripto protein or the engineering of the cells in

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such a manner that they do not express endogenous functioning Cripto.

14. (Original) A method according to Claim 13 in which exposure to a Cripto inhibitor occurs in the early phases of stem cell differentiation.
15. (Original) A method according to Claim 13 in which the Cripto protein inhibitor is an anti-Cripto antibody or functional fragments thereof.
16. (Original) A method according to Claim 13 in which the Cripto protein inhibitor is a peptide specifically selected from a random combinatorial peptide library.
17. (Original) A method according to Claim 13 in which the Cripto protein inhibitor is an antagonist of the Alq4(receptor)-Cripto(co-receptor)-Nodal(ligand) pathway.
18. (Original) A method according to Claim 17 in which the antagonist is the peptide Cerberus or its functional derivatives.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Currently Amended) A composition for the treatment of neuropathologies that comprises the stem cells ~~according~~ to obtainable by the method of Claim 19 13.

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21. (Currently Amended) The use of the stem cells ~~according~~
~~to~~ obtainable by the method of Claim 19 13 for treating
neuropathologies.
22. (Original) The use of the Cripto protein or its
inhibitors in the preparation of a composition able to
direct stem cell differentiation toward the neuronal
lineage.